Minimum Wages Act in mines in Central sphere during 1998-99 as many as 3671 inspections were carried out in which 44806 irregularities were detected, 1547 employers convicted, 394 claim cases disposed of and an amount of Rs. 38.45 lakhs awarded.

Irregularities in PF Accounts

† 3352. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that irregularities are being committed in the accounts of provident fund of the employee by some higher officers in Orrisa; and

(b) if so, the action being taken against such guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) It is reported that there were fraudulent withdrawals from PF account of the subscriber by impersonation in the Regional EPF Office Bhubaneswar and Sub-Regional Office Berhampur.

(b) Preliminary investigation in the matter has been carried out and consequently one UDC and one Section Supervisor have been placed under suspension on account of their suspected connivance with outsiders in the case.

Losses due to Labour Unrest

3353. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Labour unrest causes Rs. 923 crore loss" as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 9th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the country is suffering losses worth crores of rupees every year due to labour unrest;

(c) if so, the details of States which are more prone to labour unrest and whether Government have drawn any plans to check such labour unrest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.